

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

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PUPPY IMPORTATION

Local, state and national animal welfare and control agencies are successfully working to reduce the abuse and neglect found in many commercial dog breeding operations known as “puppy mills” in the United States. These efforts have resulted in closer monitoring of such facilities. A consequence of this stronger monitoring has been an increase in importation of puppies raised in commercial breeding operations outside of the United States.

Most of these puppies are imported from Central and South America, Eastern Europe, Russia, and Asia. In order to satisfy the demands of the pet buying public for very young animals, most of these puppies are removed from their mothers too early and are subjected to extreme stress during shipment. There is poor oversight for the commercial operations of dog breeding in these source countries, and therefore concern over the conditions in which these puppies are raised.

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MOTION

Molina	_____
Burke	_____
Knabe	_____
Antonovich	_____
Yaroslavsky	_____

These puppies have underdeveloped immune systems and are exposed to diseases and stress that cause serious illnesses. Many times, pet owners in the United States who purchase such puppies are faced with large veterinary medical bills to treat the ensuing illnesses these puppies contract.

The importation of animals is regulated by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The Center for Disease Control estimates that over 7,000 puppies are imported through Los Angeles International Airport each year. Stronger oversight is needed by the USDA to better enforce the importation of immature and ill puppies.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors send a five signature letter to the United States Department of Agriculture, urging stronger enforcement of the importation of puppies into the United States.

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